

Serail No. 08/963,944
August 10, 2001

REMARKS

In light of the above newly submitted claims and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are solicited.

This application was unintentionally abandoned. A Petition to Revive is attached.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action of December 27, 1999 which issued herein and submits this amendment in response thereto. Claims 1- 28 are canceled. New independent claims 29-32 are submitted. Please deduct the appropriate fee from deposit account number 16-2500.

Claims 1-3, 9, 14-16, 22, and 27 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,411 to Eyer, et al. Claims 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 25 were rejected as obvious over Eyer, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,043 to Blonstein. Claims 6, 8, 19, and 21 were rejected as obvious over Eyer, Blonstein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,438 to Bedard. Claims 11 and 24 were rejected as being obvious over Eyer, Blonstein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,028 to Banker. Claims 13 and 26 were rejected as obvious over Eyer, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,152,012 to Schwob.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 29-32 are patentable over the prior art of record, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Eyer discloses a system for allowing a viewer to navigate consecutively through a series of associated channels (such as channels from the same network) during ordinary channel navigation. A user employing an Eyer navigational device will use a single channel navigational control to navigate through all available channels. The Eyer navigational device permits the reordering of the typical numerical sequence, and inserts channels associated with the first channel directly after that channel. With this reordering, instead of a typical numerical sequence of channels, the user may find that associated channels, which may not be next in a numerical sequence, have been interspersed into the numerical sequence, contiguous to a first associated channel in the numerical sequence. This is precisely the prior art approach that this invention improves upon. See application pages 2-3

For example, assume that channels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are available to be viewed on a particular broadcast system. Further assume that channel six, which for example originates from Fox, has two channels associated with it, channel 100 (FX) and channel 103 (Fox News). A user employing the Eyer invention uses a single up/down arrow key to navigate through all channels, including the base (i.e. channel 6 in the above example) and associated channels. Instead of navigating through the ordinary 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7... sequence, a user employing Eyer navigates through the following sequence: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 100, 103, 7.... Thus, this user navigates through all associated channels, even those pertaining to channels that the user may have no interest in. This example assumes that only one station between 2 and 7 has associated channels. Of course, there may be many stations having associated channels, thus exacerbating the drawback illustrated above.

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New claim 29 is patentable over Eyer. New claim 29 requires displaying "at least one multiplex channel from the selected anchor channel after receiving a first command," and then displaying "a next anchor channel in the sequence of anchor channels after receiving a second command, where the second command is different from the first command." This is not found in the prior art of record. In Eyer, a single command, provided by the channel navigation arrows, are used to view all channels, whether associated or otherwise. The user has to navigate through all associated channels, even the ones that the user may have no interest in viewing. In a typical broadcast system, where many channels may have channels associated with them, the Eyer system places a tremendous inconvenience upon a user.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Eyer does not suggest or describe the subject matter of new independent claim 29. As new independent claims 30-32 contain similar limitations, it is submitted that these claims are also patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 29.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

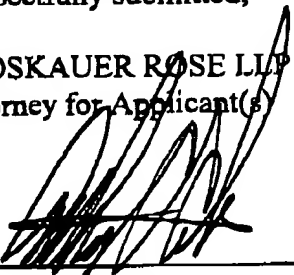
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The undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner contact him at the telephone number indicated below to resolve any remaining issues raised herein so that an Examiner's amendment may be utilized as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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